

Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1-17 (Cancelled).

18. (Withdrawn) A method of treating an *E. coli* diseases or conditions comprising administering an effective amount of a lactic acid bacterium host having an expression vector therein that secretes colicin VM; contacting said *E. coli* with said lactic acid bacterium; and allowing said colicin VM to act against said *E. coli*.

Claim 19 (cancelled).

20. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 19 wherein the Gram-negative bacterium is *E. coli*.

Claims 21-36 (Cancelled).

37. (Original). A method for inhibiting the growth of susceptible bacteria in an environment, comprising:
providing a microorganism comprising a secretion vector, said secretion vector comprising:

 a first polynucleotide encoding a bacteriocin;

 a second polynucleotide encoding a bacteriocin processing peptide operable in said host cell, operably linked to said polynucleotide encoding said bacteriocin; and

 a promoter operable in said host cell, operably linked to said polynucleotide encoding said bacteriocin; and

 applying said microorganism to said environment in an amount sufficient to inhibit the growth of susceptible bacteria.

38. (Original). The method of claim 37, wherein said bacteriocin processing peptide comprises a divergicin A processing peptide or an operable mutein thereof.

39. (Currently amended). The method of claim 38, wherein said secretion vector further comprises an immunity gene which confers immunity from said heterologous bacteriocin to said host cell.
40. (Original). The method of claim 39, wherein said vector encodes a plurality of different bacteriocins.
41. (Withdrawn) A method for inhibiting the growth of susceptible bacteria comprising providing a microorganism that expresses heterologous DNA encoding a brochocin peptide, and applying said microorganism to susceptible bacteria in an amount sufficient to inhibit the growth of the susceptible bacteria.
42. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 41 wherein providing a microorganism that expresses heterologous DNA encoding a brochocin peptide comprises a secretion vector that comprises a first polynucleotide that encodes brochocin-C and a second polypeptide encoding a brochocin-C processing peptide, wherein at least one of the first polypeptide and the second polypeptide are heterologous to the microorganism.
43. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 42 wherein said second polypeptide encodes an N-terminal amino acid sequence.
44. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 43 wherein said N-terminal amino acid sequence comprises a signal amino acid sequence.
45. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 44 wherein said N-terminal amino acid sequence comprises a leader amino acid sequence.
46. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 41 wherein said microorganism is a lactic acid bacterium.

47. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 41 wherein said secretion vector comprises a gene for brochocin-C, and operable muteins thereof; a brochocin-C processing peptide operably linked to said gene; an immunity gene; and a promoter compatible with said microorganism and operably linked to said gene for brochocin-C.
48. (withdrawn) An isolated DNA encoding brochocin-C (Seq. ID No. 23)
49. (withdrawn) An isolated DNA encoding brochocin-C (Seq. ID No. 23) and the brochocin-C immunity gene.
50. (New) The method of claim 37 wherein providing a microorganism comprises providing a lactic acid bacterium.
51. (New) The method of claim 37 wherein the first polynucleotide encoding a bacteriocin comprises encoding a bacteriocin from the group consisting of leucocin, enterocin, and colicin V.
52. (New) The method of claim 37 wherein the second polynucleotide encoding a bacteriocin processing peptide comprises a polynucleotide that encodes a divergicin A signal peptide.
53. (New) The method of claim 37 wherein the secretion vector comprises a p32 promoter.
54. (New) A method for inhibiting the growth of gram positive bacteria in an environment, comprising:
providing a microorganism comprising a secretion vector, said secretion vector comprising:
a first polynucleotide encoding a bacteriocin derived from a gram-negative bacterium;

a second polynucleotide encoding a divergicin A bacteriocin processing peptide operable in said host cell, operably linked to said first polynucleotide;

a promoter operable in said host cell, operably linked to said polynucleotide encoding said bacteriocin; and

applying said microorganism to said environment in an amount sufficient to inhibit the growth of susceptible bacteria.